

SUGIMOTO et al.
Appl. No. 10/642,237
November 19, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12 – 14 and 16 – 18.
2. Cancel claims 9 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer.
3. Rewrite claims 12-13 and 16-17 in independent form.
4. Amend the dependencies of claims 10 and 11 to depend from independent claim 12.
5. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

In view of the indication in enumerated paragraph 4 of the Office Action of the allowable subject matter of claims 12 – 14 and 16 – 18, the rewriting of claims 12 – 13 and 16 – 17 as the only pending independent claims moots all prior art rejections.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.


Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:


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